

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number. : 10/084,856                      Confirmation Number. : 6222  
Applicants : Douglas U. Mennie *et al.*  
Filed : February 27, 2002  
TC/A.U. : 3694  
Examiner : Matthew D. Osborne  
  
Docket Number : 247171-000373USD1  
Customer Number : 41230

Mail Stop RCE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Commissioner:

This paper is being submitted, together with a request for continued examination (RCE), responsive to the Decision on Request for Rehearing mailed on April 29, 2010.

These papers are being timely filed, as Application No. 10/084,856 remains pending (see, e.g., MPEP § 1214.06.I and 37 C.F.R. § 1.197(b)) under the expiration of the time period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.304(a)(1) (i.e., June 29, 2010).

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections in the final office action dated December 31, 2007, in view of the Decision on Appeal dated December 28, 2010, and the following newly presented claims.

The Applicant's **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Applicant's **Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.